



National Wildlife Federation

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February 28, 2018

Commissioner Robert Taub, Chairman
Commissioner Tony Hammond, Vice Chairman
Commissioner Nanci Langley
Commissioner Mark Acton
Postal Regulatory Commission
901 New York Avenue, NW, Suite 200
Washington, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Docket No. RM2017-3

Dear Commissioners:

The National Wildlife Federation (NWF) joins the Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers in urging you to reconsider the proposal to increase postage rates several times the rate of inflation. Increases that are estimated to reach 7 percent a year, or 40 percent compounded for five years, will not reform the United States Postal Service and will have a major negative impact on the agency and its customers.

As a nonprofit, NWF relies on mail for the majority of our fundraising. But we operate on a limited, fixed fundraising budget each year. So, if postage goes up as much as you contemplate, we will be forced to greatly reduce our mailings. This will have a disastrous impact on our revenue and our mission.

Allowing the USPS to increase its market-dominant rates faster than inflation would increase NWF's fundraising costs and reduce the funds available for our programs. This would greatly impair NWF's effectiveness: a large portion of our donors and target audience still prefer receiving print publications, which can depict nature and wildlife vividly. Increases in postage thus could impair the cleanliness, safety, and beauty of the outdoors and its wildlife in America for future generations. In the end, government spending to protect wildlife, public lands, and the environment would need to increase to offset the diminished effectiveness of NWF and other impacted conservation organizations.

NWF's mission is to unite all Americans to ensure that wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world. Since 1936, the NWF has joined with people across the country to share knowledge and resources in a common effort to protect wildlife, special places, and natural resources. Protecting these resources is a cause that has long united Americans from all walks of life and political stripes. All Americans, regardless of location, depend on clear air, clean water, and a healthy environment. NWF takes pride in defending those needs.

Postage increases totaling 40 percent over the next five years will have the following impact on our mission and the people we serve.

Please do the right thing reconsider your proposal.

Sincerely,

Sandra Miao
National Wildlife Federation



Uniting all Americans to ensure wildlife thrive in a rapidly changing world.

nwf.org